

Australian Pinball Museum Newsletter

With COVID closures, 2020 has basically been a year of hibernation. With not much news to talk about, we have been waiting till now, the end of the year and hopefully the end of COVID restrictions in Australia to write a new newsletter edition.

The year started off really well, being the busiest we had ever been. We started off with a good January and February where we were still open and having fun. It was a very busy tourist season and we will miss the large amount of overseas tourists that would visit as current estimates say it's very unlikely that international travel will return next year.

Stern Army IFPA Tournaments

We had two Stern Army events this year before we had to close in the middle of March.



At this stage, there is no indication that the IFPA will endorse any pinball tournaments in 2021 given the current COVID state of many countries in the northern hemisphere.

For now, there are no planned tournaments as we are not allowed run any type of events yet due to restrictions. In the middle of 2021 we will re-evaluate the potential of running some tournaments again for the last half of the year, but these potential tournament events will not be IFPA endorsed for world ranking points.

Completed Tournaments:

Stern Army January

The January competition was a "Pinball Golf" tournament.

This is where each player played 18 pinball machines (a golf hole) and each of those machines had a specific objective, whatever ball number you achieved that objective on was your score (in golf, number of strokes).

The top 4 players then played against each other in a final round.

Final tournament standings:

- 1 Kane Russell
- 2 Russ Barton
- 3 Willow Williams
- 4 Charlie White
- 5 Brenton Hall
- 6 Patrick White
- 7 Lyndon Carter
- 8 Kylie Russell

Stern Army February

The February event was a "Flip Frenzy".

Fast paced pinball madness!

It's where players play against each other, when they finish that game they play off against another player, this continues for 3 hours. At the end, the winner is the person with the most overall wins (games won minus games lost).

Final tournament standings:

- 1 Kane Russell
- 2 Russ Barton
- 3 Adam Farmer
- 4 Steven Schoen
- 5 Ryan Dickie
- 6 Katrina Pingnam
- 7 Willow Williams
- 8 Fennessah Carter
- 9 Luke Pingnam
- 10 Jack Jensen
- 11 Simon Carter
- 12 Kevin Vermeer
- 13 Paul Berry
- 14 Kylie Russell

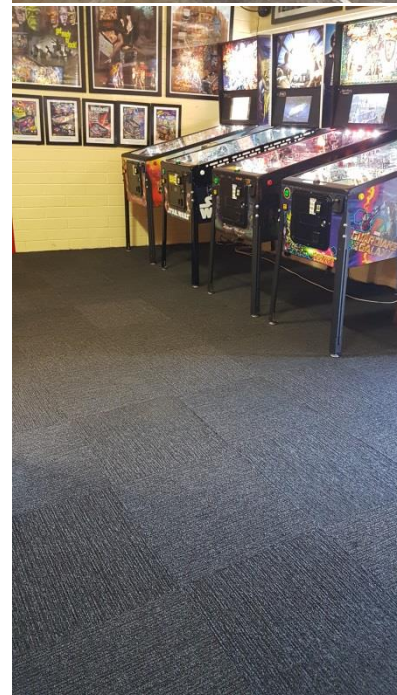
COVID

At the start of March we started to operate the museum on a booking only basis. With

COVID restrictions this meant that only one group was allowed in the museum at any given time. After every single group, every single game and all the rooms were completely cleaned and disinfected.

In the middle of March we were forced to completely close due to the lockdowns. Initially we started working on maintenance and improving the building.

We installed new carpet throughout the entire building and many small building changes such as removing a storage room to open up the pinball area more.



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There are many more pieces of artwork on display. During the lockdown period we made up over 200 frames of artwork and many other displays including constructing glass display cabinets. We also have a new touch screen interface for the magazine viewer.



Most of the building work was finished by July and it looked like we were going to open up soon as the restrictions were starting to lift but then the 2nd COVID wave hit and we went back into even worse lockdowns.



From the 2nd half of the year onwards, we were purely in hibernation mode – we put the expensive newer games in offsite storage and the rest at the museum were covered and almost practically abandoned. After having no new income for over 4 months during the first round of restrictions and now no more reserves, it was the start of a very long 2nd half of the year. No more projects, improvements or machine maintenance was possible as there was no more funds for it. Luckily, we're coming out of hibernation now in December and it's extremely exciting!

Of course there is a lot of machine maintenance to do now because the games have been left sitting since July, some games do not like to be left sitting not being played, but we hope to get them all working as good as possible for our re-opening. You can expect the same great condition and well playing games that we are known for!

RE-OPENING

We will be officially open to the public on December 10 – to be ready in time for the start of the SA school holidays.

The exact day to day operations of the museum will follow the current government restrictions of the day, which is always constantly changing.

Below is what is currently required.

The rules say to limit the number of walk-in patrons and to take bookings wherever possible, so to keep within this rule we are initially opening up the museum with a *Bookings Only* system. This will be similar to what we did at the start of COVID back in March except there is no booking fee and it is possible to have more than one group in at a time.

There is hand sanitiser located in multiple areas inside the museum, visitors must use it.

We also have gloves and masks available if you need them.

The 1 person per 4 square meters ruling means there is a building maximum occupancy cap of 30 people. There is a ruling that the group limit is 20 people. We will try to not have any other groups in when a large group has booked, so when operating on one group at a time, the building cap of 30 is ignored and the group limit of 20 is the main cap. Contact tracing records are mandatory, you can scan the state government provided contact tracing QR code displayed at the entrance to fulfil this requirement. The QR code is displayed on the front window, on the front door, and inside at the information kiosk and pinball flyer bench.

Making a booking: Send us an email, message us on Facebook, or phone the Oasis Motel on 03 5391 1666. Maximum booking duration is three hours.

Walk-ins: If there is no group in the museum when you arrive, and there is no one scheduled to arrive soon, then you can book in and be allowed entry for up to one hour.

Accommodation and Pinball: Contact the Oasis Motel on 03 5391 1666 to book your accommodation and your pinball appointment. There is no maximum booking duration limit for pinball bookings made with an associated motel room booking.

Visiting From Interstate

For our SA friends, the state borders are open; you just need to fill in some documents to be allowed to travel interstate.



Firstly, to enter Victoria you need to fill out a border permit found here:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/south-australian-border-permit>

Currently there is no road block on the highway with permits being checked, but VIC police will randomly pull you over and check that you have a valid permit. The permit takes only a couple of minutes to fill in. If you have not been to a COVID hotspot or if you have not been ordered to isolate you will be allowed into the state. The VIC permit system may be ending soon.

To return back to South Australia you will also need another border permit that is found here:

<https://www.police.sa.gov.au/online-services/cross-border-travel-application>

Currently the SA police have a road block on the highway. It is possible to fill out a border permit form at the border but it would be smart to get it all done prior to travelling. Currently VIC has no COVID cases so all SA border permit applications are being approved, the only reason they are still requiring a permit is to track the movements of everyone for COVID contact tracing applications just in case VIC starts to get COVID cases again.

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Possible Return of Free Play Days

Over 2 years ago we used to run Unlimited Free Play days during school holidays. These may be able to return as we are not doing tournaments, but we highly doubt there can be anything for summer. This will all depend on what restrictions are lifted next and so we cannot promise anything until that happens, but we are hoping to do something if its possible.

New Merchandise and Gift Shop

With all the improvements we did during the COVID lockdowns, one was improving our gift shop and expanding our range of merchandise.

We now offer many new souvenirs including face masks, backpacks, thermos, jigsaw puzzles, swiss army knives, mouse mats, drink coasters and many more.

Our range of hats and T-shirts has been expanded with more designs.

The original pinball memorabilia we have available for sale has been increased, especially the amount of original pinball key tags and vintage arcade tokens.

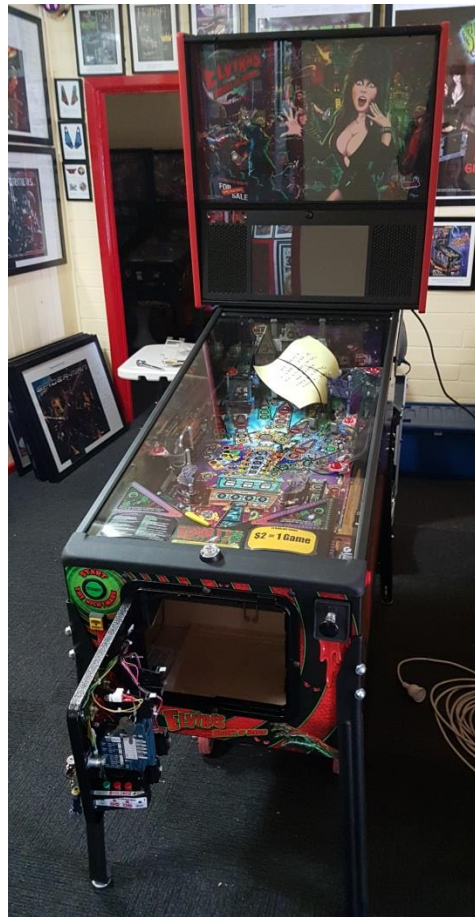
Our range of original pinball advertising posters now all come framed ready for hanging on a wall.

We also now have some autographed pinball memorabilia available.

New Game Arrivals

Elviras House of Horrors by Stern.

This was sadly originally planned for a huge Halloween party event, but none of that could happen due to lockdowns. Now that we can finally open, come in and enjoy this awesome game! It's been sitting here for a few months waiting for you to come play!



Recent Donations

Thanks to Simon at Amusementworx for donating the playfield wireforms for a special display project that we are about to start working on.

Thanks for Chris Craft for donating the touchscreen panel to help improve our magazine archives viewer.

See a short video showing off the new touchscreen display here:

<https://www.facebook.com/PinballMuseum/videos/1020483995123195>

Thanks to all those who sent us donations via Paypal or visited to drop off cash donations to help throughout the time that we were closed, it's really appreciated!

Thanks to @Aether_Crescent for drawing a new expanded logo for our merchandise. Our previous logo had been just a silver ball with our name on it with a silhouette of a pinball and flippers. Now this new expanded logo still uses the silver ball but it is expanded to show the front of the pinball museum. Given that we have large concrete flippers and bumpers out the front of the museum, placing the silver ball logo within them seems like a great idea!



VIC Government Travel Vouchers

The state government could pay for your holiday! Make a weekend of it, stay at the motel for a few nights and play pinball all day!

More information can be found here:

<https://business.vic.gov.au/travelvouchers>

